

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a documentary--the reported content and aim of which are to malign presidential candidate John Kerry--days before the election is transparent partisanship on the part of a corporation and a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead, this corporation, which has donated very large sums of money to further certain political interests, is using public airways to manipulate the the viewing public to serve those interests instead of the public good.

Rather than being force-fed programming that large corporations deem is in their best interest to air, the viewing public should have more choices--less media consolidation--so that they can have more access to programming presented by real people from their own communities and have more access to programming that provides real, substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.